

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEL AV 07353 091636Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----007906 091640Z /41

O 091609Z JUN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3551  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE  
USMISSION USUN NY PRIORITY  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY

S E C R E T TEL AVIV 7353

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PBOR MOPS IS LE SY  
SUBJ: ISRAELI POSITION ON SYRIAN DEPLOYMENT TO THE LITANI

REFS: (A) STATE 146494, (B) TEL AVIV 7187, (C) TEL AVIV 7347

1. THRUST OF REFTEL A APPEARS TO PRESUME ISRAEL AGREES WITH US ASSESSMENT OF THE UTILITY OF SYRIAN MOVE DOWN TO THE LITANI. WE WOULD CAUTION AGAINST TAKING GOI FOR GRANTED ON THIS. ISRAELI DMI GAZIT TOLD US ON JUNE 2 (REF B) THAT ISRAELI GOVERNMENT IS SHARPLY DIVIDED AS TO WHETHER TO ALLOW SUCH A MOVE. GAZIT SAID THAT ALTHOUGH A SYRIAN DEPLOYMENT WOULD NOT CONSTITUTE A SIGNIFICANT MILITARY THREAT TO ISRAEL AT THIS TIME BECAUSE OF THE PRESENCE OF UNIFIL SOUTH OF THE LITANI, THE POLITICAL IMPACT OF SUCH A MOVE WOULD BE SERIOUS. ISRAELIS RECOGNIZE THAT UNIFIL WILL NOT BE AROUND FOREVER, AND AGREEMENT NOW TO SYRIAN DEPLOYMENT SOUTH OF THEIR PRESENT POSITIONS MAY SERVE TO HAUNT ISRAEL IN THE FUTURE.

2. NONETHELESS, WE HAVE PICKED UP VERY LITTLE PRIVATE  
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COMMENT ON THIS POSSIBILITY SINCE IT AGAIN SURFACED IN THE PRESS AFTER THE SARKIS/ASSAD MEETING. THE PRESS, TOO, HAS BEEN CURIOUSLY MUTE. WE TAKE THIS TO MEAN THAT THE ISRAELIS ARE VIEWING THIS WITH A COMBINATION OF INTEREST AND SKEPTICISM, BUT IT APPEARS THAT THEY'RE SHOWING MORE INTEREST AND LESS SKEPTICISM THAN WAS THE CASE A FEW MONTHS AGO. THE ISRAELIS NO DOUBT ARE INTRIGUED BY A SITUATION

WHICH WOULD PIT THE SYRIANS AGAINST THE PALESTINIANS IN SOUTH LEBANON. HOWEVER, WE NOTE THAT THE ISRAELI HORSE ISNT YET IN THE BARN AND WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE FOR US TO OBVIOUSLY GO LOOKING FOR IT IN THE FIELD AT THE MOMENT.

3. WE WILL BE ALERT TO SIGNS HERE THAT ISRAELI OPPOSITION IS CRYSTALLIZING, AND WILL QUICKLY WEIGHT IN ALONG LINES OF PARA FOUR, REF A, IF THAT IS OCCURRING. FOR THE MOMENT, HOWEVER, WE AGREE WITH DEPARTMENT'S INCLINATION TO STAND ON THE SECRETARY'S CONVERSATION WITH DINITZ--ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF THE CONTRADICTORY INTELLIGENCE REPORTS ABOUT WHAT ACTUALLY TRANSPIRED BETWEEN SARKIS AND ASSAD.

4. EZER WEIZMAN'S BRIEF REFERENCE TO THE SYRIANS THIS AFTERNOON (TEL AVIV 7347) SUPPORTS THIS CONCLUSION. LEWIS

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TROOP DEPLOYMENT, MILITARY PLANS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 09 jun 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**TAGS:** PBOR, MOPS, IS, LE, SY  
**To:** STATE BEIRUT  
**Type:** TE  
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